



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Roxane Marquez
at (213) 974-4111 (office)
or (213) 598-5463 (cellular)

GLORIA MOLINA HONORS KEY PARTNERS IN EAST LOS ANGELES CIVIC CENTER GALA AND GRAND DEDICATION

Eastside Residents and Activists plus National Organizations Honored

LOS ANGELES (June 10, 2008)—Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina honored several national organizations and scores of civic-minded individuals who played key roles in ensuring the success of the East Los Angeles Civic Center Heroes Gala and Grand Dedication, two separate events held in the heart of East L.A. last May.

“Almost a decade ago, we envisioned a centralized county services hub in East Los Angeles that could simultaneously function as a community gathering place that reflected the area’s rich cultural heritage—and the completion of the East Los Angeles Civic Center is that dream come true,” Molina said. “We have transformed Belvedere Park into a point of pride for the entire neighborhood complete with a state-of-the-art library, a landscaped park, a sparkling Belvedere Lake, a new “county hall,” a courtyard and fountain, impressive public art, and the Dionicio Morales Transit Center where the long-awaited Eastside Extension light rail train will make its penultimate stop.”

“Every component of this project is very meaningful to us,” Molina continued. “But our plans went from the drawing board to reality because of consistent collaboration between county agencies and dedicated individuals East Los Angeles who knew exactly what the Eastside needed and were determined to get it. Similarly, our celebration in May was made possible thanks to the hard work of staff combined with funds from our sponsors—many of which were national organizations that had never before been to East Los Angeles.”

—More—

At today's meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Molina presented official commendations for those involved in hosting civic center dedication festivities, which included a "Heroes Gala" on Friday, May 9th followed by several events the following day on Saturday, May 10th, such as a Healthy Living Workshop, a dedication ceremony for the Dionicio Morales Transit Plaza, a separate dedication ceremony for the Carrie Sutkin Children's Room within the East Los Angeles Library, and a "Concert Under the Stars" and Fireworks Show at the Belvedere Lake Amphitheatre featuring Little Willie G of Thee Midnighters, Tierra, Suave, Mariachis del Sol, and Upground. Honorees included:

East Los Angeles Civic Center Celebration—Key Partners

Gloria M. Alvarez and Jonathan Sanchez of *Eastern Group Publications*
Martin Castro of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF)
Diego Cardoso
Evelina Fernandez
Grace Gonzales of Volunteers of East Los Angeles (VELA)
Richard Montoya
Tony Plana

East Los Angeles Civic Center Celebration—Sponsors

Andy Carrasco and Michael De la Torre of the Southern California Gas Company—A Sempra Energy Utility
Beth Gallagher, Jim Henwood, Scott Kelly, and Dwight Richards of the Los Angeles County Fair
Elvia Delgado, Angel Obregon, and Dr. Maria Torres of Altamed Health Services
Hector Hernandez and Araceli Loneragan of East Los Angeles Doctor's Hospital
Thomas Tran of LA Care Health Plan
Laura Barrera of *La Opinión*
Dr. Alfonzo Barbara, Mario Ceballos, and Gail Koretz of Kaiser Permanente
Wes Tanaka of Southern California Edison
Albert Gomez of Wachovia Bank

East Los Angeles Civic Center—Health Pavilion Participants

American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Christina Kelly of Lupus International
Jasmine Ramirez of the American Cancer Society
Jeri Ramos and Tamera Watkins of the American Lung Association

East Los Angeles Civic Center—Arts Organizations

Leni Boorstin of the Los Angeles Philharmonic
Jural Garrett and Patrick Tanaka of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Steve Rountree of The Music Center—Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County

Gloria Molina Honors Partners in East Los Angeles Civic Center Grand Dedication, p. 3

East Los Angeles Civic Center—Los Angeles County Departments

Lizette Andrade, Ricardo Ceja, Norma E. Garcia, Frank Gonzales, Russ Guiney, Susie Hsi, Claudia Ramirez, Mac Rodriguez, Alondra Ruiz, and Manuel Valle of the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation

Emma Ayala, Gary Boze, Jesus Camarena, Anabel Dubois, Gazar Hedman, James Johnson, Monticello Miller, David Palma, and Kathy Salama of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Randy Bittner and staff, Michael Lear, and Brian Lear of the Los Angeles County Internal Services Department

Adam Davis, Heather Rigby, Arthur Trowbridge, and Laura Zucker of the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre

Margaret Todd and East Los Angeles Library Staff of the Los Angeles County Public Library

East Los Angeles Civic Center—Other Honorees

Miguel Santiago of East Los Angeles College (ELAC)

Alfredo Montes of the James A. Garfield High School Mariachis

Miranda Muro of Los Angeles Music and Art School

(Photographs and images of honorees receiving official commendations at today's Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors meeting are available upon request.)

###